

Frederick Little

Central Connecticut State University

Strategic Communications B.A

Members of Appropriations Committee,

Hello! My name is Frederick Little and I am a first generation junior at Central Connecticut State University originally from Northford, CT. Before I begin, I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to speak here today, as well as Dr. Kellie, our Vice President of Student Affairs and Dr. Hazan, our director of Students Activities and Leadership Development here at CCSU for inviting me here today.

Today, I would like to share with you my journey and experiences at Central that have greatly impacted my life. Backtracking three years, when I was a senior in highschool looking for college, I had no clue where I wanted to go or what I wanted to pursue. At the time, my sister was enrolled here, and had nothing but positive things to say about her experiences as a student. With this in mind, and the cost of tuition, I thought how could I go wrong with applying and becoming a student here? So I applied, got the acceptance letter, and became a student at CCSU! My first year here was completely online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but this did not dim the image I have of the school whatsoever. Professors took the extra mile ensuring we mastered the material and built strong relationships with us given virtual challenges. Taking it back to the present day, this was one of the best decisions of my life.

Three years later, I have had the opportunity to build strong relationships, work with and utilize many of the departments on campus. Starting off, I am the Area Supervisor of Operations and Guest Relationships at CCSU Campus Recreation Center. Here I oversee our Operation Managers, being their point person while on shift in charge of scheduling, evaluating, and assisting with their needs. This position also entails me working closely with departments on campus completing their requests in renting equipment and utilizing our facility. This job has challenged me in many ways, but also allowed me to find a passion for Higher Education.

In addition to Campus Recreation, I am also a Resident Assistant working closely in the Department of Residence Life. Here, I serve as a resource and leader responsible for providing on-campus residents with support in the areas of community engagement, academics, mental health, overall wellness, social involvement and a lot more. RAs have direct connections with free resources on campus like the Learning Center, LGBTQ Center, Women's Center, Student Wellness, Maria's Place (Campus pantry), and a lot more.

The opportunities that these departments give open doors for both academic and social success for their students. The resources provided for students need funding to ensure they are able to continue supporting growth and development. Looking ahead years from now, I want all students to have the opportunities I have had, and will continue to have while I finish my undergraduate years at Central. Some may believe there is a stigma with choosing to pursue a degree at a state school, but I am here today to challenge that stigma and raise awareness for the many great opportunities it has allowed for me as a student. I hope my story shines light on the greatness of this institution! I want to thank you all for allowing me to share my story, and wish you a good rest of your evening.